

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: June 27, 2007

USDA CHICKEN FAJITA STRIPS PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase chicken fajita strips for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs.

Offers will be invited from the trade for frozen, fully cooked, dark chicken fajita strips, produced from ready-to-cook boneless, skinless drumsticks, thighs, and/or legs. The commodity will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, July 9, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, July 13, for delivery from Aug. 16 to Aug. 31. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the second and fourth Monday of each month.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. Truck seals shall meet the American Society for Testing and Materials standards, and seals shall be 1/8-inch in diameter, high-security bolts, or equivalent. Additionally, food defense plans will be audited by the USDA, AMS, Grading Branch prior to contract award. Potential Contractors will receive written notification from the Contracting Officer of their eligibility to bid. Contractors may request the Contracting Officer waive the pre-award audit.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-325, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-325, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Chicken Fajita Strips dated June 2007, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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